

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application and subject to restriction. Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I (claims 1-7, 15, and 16) and the species *Salix alba*, as recited in claims 1 and 15, from which all other elected claims depend.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request prompt examination on the merits. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Swinton, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Stephen F. Swinton, Jr.
Reg. No. 53,661

Date: 09 November 2007

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
T: 518.449.0044
F: 518.449.0047